

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 14, 17 and 18 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended. Additionally, claims 6, 15 and 16 have been canceled, and the features of claims 6, 15, 16 have been incorporated into their respective independent claims. Furthermore, claims 19 and 20 have been canceled as directed to a non-elected invention.

More specifically, claim 1 was amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 6 and claim 13 was amended to incorporate the features of claim 15 and allowable claim 16. Applicant is not conceding in this application that original claims 1, 13 and 19 and previously presented claim 20 are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner in the interview. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Applicant submits that the application is condition for allowance in view of the above amendments to the claims the following remarks.

Interview Summary

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative in a telephone interview dated May 22, 2007. In the interview, the Examiner confirmed that claims 6, 7 and 16, indicated as allowable in the Office Action dated August 31, 2006, were allowable.

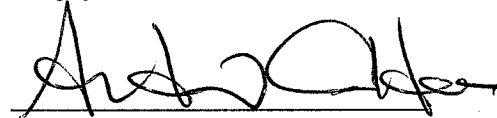
Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 6 and claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 15 and 16.

Applicant is not conceding to any narrowing of the claims, and is amending claims 1 and 13 to gain allowance of claims 1 – 5, 7 – 14, 17 and 18.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant submits that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 09-0457.

Respectfully submitted,
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